

same description, nor will permission be granted by the authorities unless they are satisfied that the public require such additional saloons for its convenience. Besides the regular income tax, a license tax has to be paid according to the rent which the saloon keeper has to pay. The proprietor must keep an accurate account and return a certain percentage on the profit of his business. The hours for opening the beer saloons and wine houses are ordinarily from 5 a.m., closing at 11 p. m., including Sundays and holidays, the tea rooms and coffee rooms closing at 7 o'clock p. m.

The question of prohibition is unknown. The moral zealot would be considered a crank. Beer is not only drink, but food, for a large proportion of the population. The manufacturer of beer is under the strict supervision of the law, which is rigidly enforced, and nothing but malt and hops can be used.

The consumption of concentrated alcoholic drinks in proportion to that of beer is exceedingly small. Beer and light wines constitute the national beverage equally for the wealthy and the lowly, the rich and the poor. The many beautiful gardens where drinks are dispensed, having comfortable tables and chairs and good attendants, are crowded during pleasant weather with the most respectable classes of society, ranging from the highest in rank to the peasantry, all joining together in a republic of pleasure, drinking in moderation while enjoying the best of music. This is furnished as a rule by some one of the numerous military bands. It is the same during the winter months with the indoor places.

Upon many journeys through Germany I have never seen one single case of drunkenness in any of these halls or gardens. Treating, with its concomitant evils, is practically unknown. Each man pays for what he requires, drinking no more than he wishes. Sometimes the general thirst on a warm summer day is titanic in its capacity for consumption. But, notwithstanding the vast quantities consumed, beer does not seem to engender the combative element aroused by alcoholic drink; it has rather the reverse effect, for it not only satisfies the thirst, but contains a food quality, which resists the small percentage of alcohol, rendering the recipient contented with himself and his surrounding; a kindly beverage, invented, one might fancy, to smooth away the cares of life and the workaday world, satisfying at once, the spirit and the man.

The writer goes on to give a lot of statistics which, while of value, make rather dry reading and they are therefore omitted. He then continues:

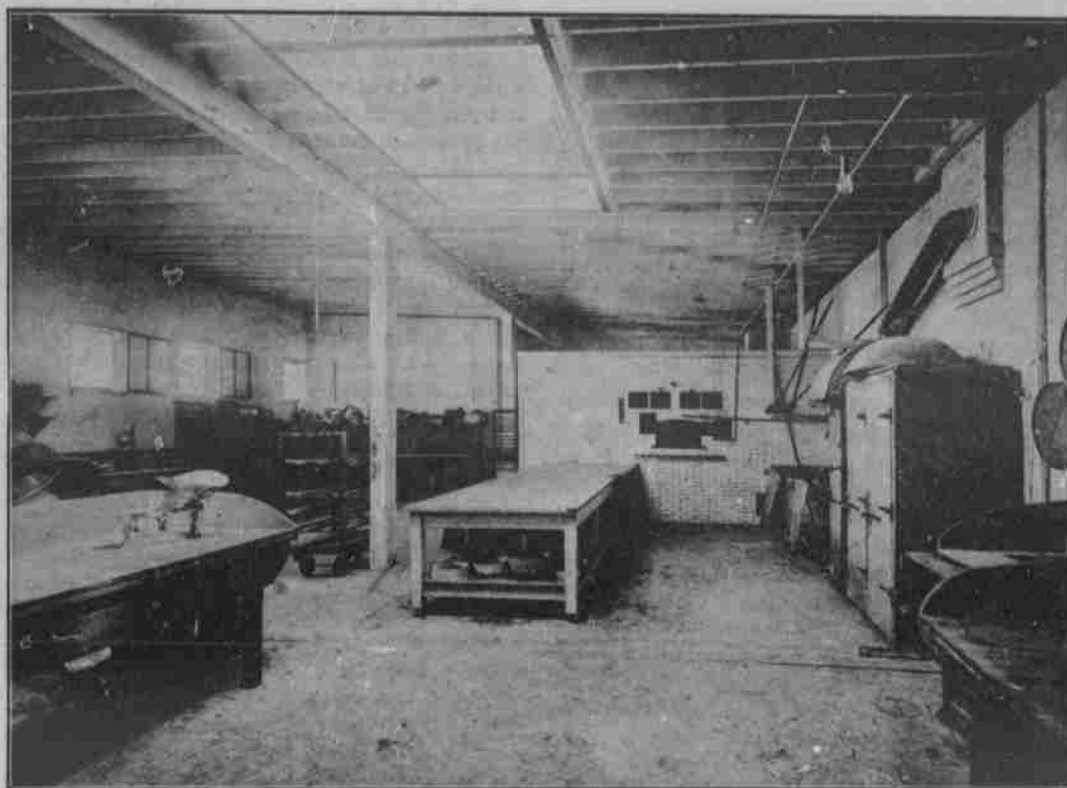
These figures are tolerably conclusive in telling their own story. They completely refute the pleas of the American prohibitionists, who, as I said, make no discrimination and allow no distinctions. One and all, they are intemperate in what they call their temperance, a single glass according to their philosophy, being the first milepost on the road to perdition, a glass of beer, or a glass of wine, and a glass of grog, one and the same.

They take their stand upon total abstinence, which is their right. But, not content with adopting it for themselves, they seek to force it by law upon their neighbors. It is impossible to reason with such a spirit. It is of the very essence of despotism. Gratified with respect to intoxicants, it would next address itself to tobacco; then to such food as might fall beneath its ban; and finally, to religious opinion, wearing apparel and personal behavior. Tyranny accepted knows no bounds. Fanaticism is relentless. Over here the masses of the people know this but too well and the rulers dare not run counter to it.

The moderate use of drink has brought as much happiness into the world as its immoder-

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